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# *Good Thought*



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# Food For Thought

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**"The Straight Goods"**  
*Third youth conference on the environment.*

To hear some tell it, pollution's going to wipe us out in ten years.

Others say it's all hysterical nonsense. Everything's going to be just dandy.

Somewhere in between is the truth.

Just how bad is pollution anyway? What's causing it? What's being done? What's not being done? Who is responsible?

The trouble is that the information comes to you in pieces. A question about poison air from here. A chunk on garbage from there. A chilling fact about our rivers from somewhere else.

### **It's confusing**

It's hard to pull it all together, which is confusing. Even more confusing is that there's no one you can talk to except friends. Friends who are as confused, upset and perhaps as angry as you are.

Before "The Straight Goods", there was never a face-to-face source of hard information. Never a place where you could sit down with the experts: biologists, engineers, economists, ecologists, zoologists, foresters, and ask the questions that bother you.

And there was certainly never a place where once you got an answer and it didn't satisfy you, you could come right back with a sharper question.

No dialogue. No forum. No free exchange. Until "The Straight Goods".

### **"The Straight Goods" concept**

On August 26, 27, 28 and 29, there's going to be just such a face-to-face exchange, for the third time.

It's going to be here at the University of Western Ontario, London. It's going to be for Ontario high school students only. Just students and environmental experts in as open a forum as we can give you. That's why we dubbed it "The Straight Goods".

There are over half a million secondary school students in the province. Unfortunately



we can't take all of you. So every school sends one delegate. Someone who'll ask bright, tough questions and come back to the rest of the school with the straight goods.

Just make sure your delegate of this August is coming back to your school in September. He or she is going to be your pollution "expert". He or she won't do you much good if he or she is off at college.

### **The students' choice**

But who comes is entirely up to you. Pick him or her from the student council. From your school's anti-pollution group. From wherever you like, but do it in time to let us know by May 31, the deadline for registration.

Once you've chosen, you've got two small hurdles before your delegate gets here.

First small hurdle: \$20 to cover food and lodging at the university. You can raise it any way you want: a cleanup drive, a dance, whatever. Just make a cheque or money order for \$20 payable to "The Straight Goods".

### **See your principal**

Your principal has the application. All you have to do is fill it out, put it and the cheque in the self-addressed envelope we've provided and make sure it gets to us by May 31.

Please note: There's a good chance that some schools won't be able to send anyone. In that case, your school could have two delegates. So make sure you put the name of your alternate delegate on the application. If there's a second space for your school, we'll let you know immediately.

Second small hurdle: transportation.

Delegates can get here any way they like. Drive, fly, bus, hitchhike, anything as long as it gets them here by the evening of the 26th of August.

As for cost, here are some sample bus fares to London and return: from Ottawa, \$27.30; from Toronto, \$8.10; from Thunder Bay,

\$69.80; from Windsor, \$7.45; from Kingston, \$22.25; from Sault Ste. Marie, \$40.50.

That's all from your end: (1) The cheque and application by May 31. (2) Transportation expenses.

Financial assistance will be available for return bus fare in excess of \$30.00

### **The open door**

As for us, we're going to throw open the university doors to over six hundred concerned students and three dozen or more scientific, technical and academic experts on the environment. (Incidentally, none of these experts is being paid a fee.)

The idea isn't to force-feed you a lot of cold facts from formal lectures. The idea is to talk, to question, to argue in small groups. We don't want your delegates returning like little robots, spewing out the party line from a political, academic or industrial point of view.

### **A shot at the truth**

We want your delegates to come back with what we believe you want: as close a shot at the truth as they can get.

Then you can make up your own minds about the pollution confusion, and better, what you want to do about it.

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## **"The Straight Goods"**

**Third youth conference on the environment.  
Sponsored by the University of Western Ontario  
and the Province of Ontario.**

**August 26, 27, 28, 29**




**Ontario**

**Ministry of The Environment**

Hon. James A. C. Auld, Minister — Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister

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